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LETTER DATED 26 JANUARY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 26 January 1995 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic, which was received by fax (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the above-mentioned statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eldar G. KOULIEV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement issued on 26 January 1995 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic

The current situation in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict zone is a source of concern and anxiety to the leaders and people of Azerbaijan.

Recently, the Armenian side has been more and more openly engaging in actions whose purpose is to violate the cease-fire agreement and escalate tension in the region.

Specifically, such actions include:

(a) Regrouping and redeployment of formations of the Armenian armed forces along the cease-fire line;

(b) Movement of equipment and troops of the Armenian armed forces in the direction of Azerbaijani positions at the Geranboy and Terter sectors of the front;

(c) Stepping-up of reconnaissance activities by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia, which have taken the form of increasingly frequent missions by sabotage and reconnaissance groups and regular helicopter surveillance of the front line and adjacent areas;

(d) Numerous violations of the cease-fire regime, which has led to the death or wounding of 12 servicemen of the Azerbaijani armed forces;

(e) The deliberately accelerated resettlement of part of the population of the Republic of Armenia in the occupied territories of the Azerbaijani Republic;

(f) The collection of means of financing the campaign to resettle Armenians in the occupied territories of the Azerbaijani Republic;

(g) Illegal and provocative visits by officials of the Republic of Armenia to the occupied Azerbaijani territories.

The Azerbaijani Republic has drawn attention to such acts of provocation by the Armenian side in the circular note issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 10 January 1995 and the statement issued by the Ministry of Defence on 13 January 1995.

In the light of the foregoing and considering the situation to be critical, and also in connection with the circular note issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia on 22 January 1995 (S/1995/63), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic has been authorized to state the following:

1. The latest actions by the Republic of Armenia are the continuation of a series of gross violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijani Republic and are aimed at derailing the process of the peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, which is proceeding within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

2. Of particular concern is the fact that all these actions are taking place just when OSCE, in accordance with the decision of the Budapest Summit, has stepped up its efforts to organize peace-keeping forces and create conditions for a political agreement between the parties to the conflict.

3. These actions by the Armenian side are being undertaken at a time when the international community's attention is focused on the situation in the northern Caucasus region.

4. The information contained in the aforementioned circular note of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia is a complete fabrication and just one more instance of Erevan's usual ploy of whipping up propaganda campaigns just before its next escalation of aggression.

In the light of the foregoing, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic draws the attention of the international community to the critical situation that has resulted owing to the latest actions by the Republic of Armenia, and declares that all the responsibility for any grave consequences lies with the Armenian side.

At the same time, the Azerbaijani Republic deems it necessary to reaffirm its commitment to the provisions of the agreement on a cease-fire, which has been holding for more than eight months, and to a peaceful political settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict within the framework of OSCE, and calls upon the leaders of Armenia to refrain from any steps that might lead to a resumption of hostilities.